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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONS COVERSHEET

DATE: Sept. 27, 2004

ATTENTION: Examiner D. Isabella

COMPANY: Art Unit 3738

FACSIMILE NO.:   703-872-9306

FROM: Brian S. Tomko

TELEPHONE NO.: (732) 524-1239   FACIMILE NO.: (732)-524-5575

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 17

COMMENTS: **Re: USSN 10/099,690**
                      Our Ref.:   HRT0293

Contents:

Petition for Extension of Time: 1 sheet
Amendment: 15   sheets

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE
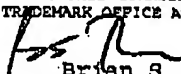
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Docket No. HRT-0293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	:	Stevens et al.			
Serial No.	:	10/099,690	Art Unit	:	3738
Filed	:	March 15, 2002	Examiner	:	D. Isabella
Title	:	Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures			

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FAXED TO THE
UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE AT (703)872-9306 ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

_____Brian S. Tomko_____
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2004, the time to respond having been extended by petition, please consider the following:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this document.